

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, AS, NZ, PP, FJ

SUBJECT: STATUS REPROT - AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, PACIFIC
ISLANDS

1. MEETING WITH AUSTRALIAN SENATORS - WE LUNCHEDED YESTERDAY
WITH AUSTRALIAN SENATORS JOHN KNIGHT (LIBERAL) AND KERRY
SIBRAA (LABOR). SOME 8,000 MILES AWAY FROM THEIR
ELECTORATES, THEY WERE BOTH VERY FRANK AND FORTHCOMING.
SIBRAA IS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE
LABOR PARTY AND SAID THAT THE ELECTIONS OF BILL HAYDEN
AND LIONEL BOWEN TO LEAD THE PARTY WERE INDICATORS OF
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THE PARTY'S CONCERN THAT LABOR PRESENT ITSELF TO THE
VOTERS AS A VIABLE, MODERATE ALTERNATIVE. ON THE QUESTION
OF URANIUM EXPORTS, BOTH SENATORS WERE TROUBLED BY THE
INABILITY OF THE AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM TO DEAL WITH
THE SUBJECT IN A REASONABLY DISPASSIONATE MANNER. RATHER,
BOTH PARTIES ARE FORCED TO RESORT TO "BUZZ WORDS".
PREDICTABLY, THIS DOES NOT GREATLY ADVANCE PUBLIC

UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUE. KNIGHT AND SIBRAA ARE HERE WITH OTHER ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ORGANIZATION. THEY EXPRESSED PARTICULAR SATISFACTION WITH LAST WEEK'S SEMINAR AT THE EAST-WEST CENTER IN HONOLULU. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING - WE ARE STILL TRYING TO FIRM UP DATES FOR THE ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING. WELLINGTON WAS COOL TO THE JUNE 29-30 DATES PROPOSED BY THE AUSTRALIANS. THE AUSTRALIANS, FOR THEIR PART, DON'T FIND CONVENIENT THE JUNE 2-3 COUNTERPROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY THE GNZ. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT BY THIS TIME NEXT WEEK. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

3. DISPUTED ISLANDS: SWAINS ISLAND - IN THEIR REPLY TO THE US PROPOSAL TO RENOUNCE ALL CLAIMS IN THE COOKS AND TOKELAUS FOR A RENUNCIATION OF CLAIMS TO SWAINS ISLAND IN AMERICAN SAMOA, THE GNZ STATED THAT THE GNZ MAINTAINED NO CLAIM TO SWAINS BUT IN THEIR 1976 AIDE MEMOIRE HAD TRANSMITTED THE VIEW OF THE TOKELAUANS THAT THEY (THE TOKELAUANS) CONSIDER SWAINS TO BE PART OF THE TOKELAUS. THE GNZ THEN PROPOSED THAT WE EXCHANGE NOTES IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES RENOUNCE ALL CLAIMS TO THE COOKS AND TOKELAUS AND THE GNZ WOULD STATE THAT IN DOING SO ALL DISPUTED CLAIMS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC BETWEEN THE GNZ AND THE US WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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SETTLED. OUR RESPONSE WAS THAT WE WOULD NEED GREATER ASSURANCE THAT THE TOKELAUS WOULD NOT RAISE THE CLAIM AT SOME LATER DATE (E.G. A NOTE FROM THE GNZ THAT ACTING ON BEHALF OF AND WITH CONSENT OF THE TOKELAUANS ALL CLAIMS TO SWAINS ISLAND WERE BEING DROPPED). THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT HAS PROMISED US AN ANSWER. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM THE DFA THAT CHIP CARTER WILL BE REPRESENTING THE US AT THIS SPRING'S AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN WEEK. (CONFIDENTIAL) VANCE

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED ABOVE.

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